

## CHALLENGES IN THE TRANSLATION OF LEGAL TERMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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### **Annotation**

This article examines the main challenges in translating legal terms between English and Uzbek. Legal translation is considered one of the most complex types of professional translation because it requires knowledge of language, law, and cultural context. The study applies comparative and descriptive methods to analyze legal terminology in both languages and identify different types of equivalence, including full, partial, functional, and zero equivalence. The research highlights that differences between the Common Law system of English-speaking countries and the Civil Law system of Uzbekistan create serious translation difficulties. Particular attention is given to nationally specific terms such as mahalla and Oliy Majlis, which require descriptive translation or transliteration. The article also discusses effective translation strategies such as borrowing, adaptation, contextual explanation, and syntactic transformation. It is concluded that successful legal translation requires not only linguistic competence but also professional legal knowledge and deep understanding of both legal systems.

**Keywords:** legal translation, legal terminology, equivalence, Common Law, Civil Law, translation strategies, English, Uzbek.

### **Introduction**

The translation of legal terminology between English and Uzbek is one of the most difficult areas of professional translation because it involves not only two languages, but also two different legal systems, cultures, and institutional structures. Legal terms are more than ordinary words; they represent concepts formed through historical legal practice and social development. Therefore, direct word-for-word translation is often impossible, since one term may carry different meanings depending on the legal context.

Accurate translation is especially important in legal texts such as contracts, court decisions, laws, certificates, and administrative documents. Even a minor lexical error may lead to misunderstanding, financial loss, invalid interpretation, or legal disputes. For this reason, studying the challenges in translating legal terminology between English and Uzbek is highly significant.

This paper examines the major problems encountered in legal translation and discusses practical methods for solving them effectively.

## **Methodology**

This research applies a comparative and descriptive methodology. Legal terms from English and Uzbek were analyzed through comparison of their meanings, legal functions, and cultural backgrounds. The study focuses on identifying equivalence between terms and determining the most suitable translation strategies.

### **Several categories of equivalence were examined:**

1. Full equivalence – when both languages have nearly identical legal concepts.
2. Partial equivalence – when meanings overlap only partly.
3. Functional equivalence – when a target term performs a similar legal role.
4. Zero equivalence – when no direct equivalent exists.

The study also uses examples from legal systems of English-speaking countries and Uzbekistan to demonstrate how translators solve terminology problems in real contexts.

## Results and Discussions

### Differences Between Legal Systems

One of the main difficulties in legal translation is the difference between legal systems. English legal language developed mainly within the Common Law tradition, where judicial precedent and case law are central sources of law. In contrast, Uzbekistan follows the Civil Law tradition, where constitutions, written codes, and legislative acts are the primary legal sources.

Because of these structural differences, many English legal concepts do not exist in the same form in Uzbek law.

#### **For example:**

1. Equity has no direct equivalent in Uzbek because it is historically specific to English law.

2. Barrister refers to a special type of legal advocate in the United Kingdom, while Uzbekistan has a different legal profession structure.

#### **Equivalence Problems:**

The findings show that complete equivalence between English and Uzbek legal terms is not always possible.

#### Examples:

1. Contract = Shartnoma (full equivalence)

2. Judge = Sudya (full equivalence)

3. Local authority = Hokimiyat (partial equivalence, since powers and structure differ)

In some cases, translators must use functional equivalents instead of literal translations. This helps readers understand the legal purpose of a term even if the concept is not identical.

## **Nationally Specific Terms**

Some Uzbek legal and social terms cannot be translated directly into English.

### **For example:**

1. Mahalla cannot simply be translated as neighborhood, because it includes social, administrative, and self-governing functions.

2. Oliy Majlis is often transliterated and explained as the Parliament of Uzbekistan.

## **Effective Translation Strategies**

The research identified several useful strategies:

- Descriptive translation
- Borrowing / transliteration
- Functional substitution
- Contextual explanation
- Adaptation
- Syntactic transformation

These strategies help preserve meaning while ensuring clarity for the target audience.

## **Conclusion**

The translation of legal terms between English and Uzbek is a complex process influenced by differences in legal systems, terminology, culture, and language structure. Since English legal terminology developed in the Common Law tradition and Uzbek terminology in the Civil Law framework, many concepts do not correspond directly.

As a result, translators often face problems of non-equivalence, partial equivalence, and conceptual mismatch. To overcome these challenges, they must apply suitable translation strategies depending on the purpose of the text and the target readers.

Ultimately, successful legal translation requires not only bilingual competence, but also deep legal knowledge, analytical skills, and understanding of both institutional systems. Only through such professionalism can translators ensure accuracy, legal reliability, and effective communication between English and Uzbek legal communities.

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